

at least one audio input comprised in or located on the chassis for receiving input audio information;

at least one audio output comprised in or located on the chassis for generating signals;

a non-removable, non-volatile random-access storage system comprised in the chassis for storing audio information, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is rewritable, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to receive and store the input audio information from the at least one audio input, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to provide output audio information to the at least one audio output, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is substantially permanently affixed inside the chassis;

a user interface system for controlling the audio entertainment system, wherein the user interface system includes a display positioned on the front side of the chassis, wherein ~~the display is operable to display substantially only status information of the system and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system; and~~

6 ✓ a user interface control system coupled to receive user input from the user interface system, wherein the user interface control system is coupled to one or more of the non-volatile random-access storage system, the at least one audio input, and the at least one audio output, wherein the user interface control system operates to control one or more of the non-volatile random-access storage system, the at least one audio input, and the at least one audio output in response to user input received from the user interface system;

wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to store audio information corresponding to a plurality of musical pieces;

wherein the user interface system is adapted to receive user input to select one or more musical pieces for audio presentation;

wherein the user interface control system is operable to receive said user input and control the non-volatile random-access storage system to provide corresponding output audio information stored on the non-volatile random-access storage system to the at least one audio output for audio presentation;

7 ✓ wherein the audio entertainment system has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment.

New Claims:

43. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 1, wherein a first portion of the chassis is acoustically shielded.

44. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 1, wherein the user interface system further includes a mute button.

45. (New) An audio entertainment system for storing and playing audio information, comprising:

a chassis for housing electrical components, wherein the chassis comprises a front side;

at least one audio output comprised in or located on the chassis for generating signals;

a non-volatile random-access storage system comprised in the chassis for storing audio information, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is rewritable, [wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to receive and store input audio information,] wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to provide output audio information to the at least one audio output;

a user interface system for controlling the audio entertainment system, wherein the user interface system includes a display positioned on the front side of the chassis, wherein the display is operable to display status information of the system and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system; and

wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to store audio information corresponding to a plurality of musical pieces;

wherein the user interface system is adapted to receive user input to select one or more musical pieces for audio presentation, wherein, in response to the user input, the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to provide corresponding output audio information stored on the non-volatile random-access storage system to the at least one audio output for audio presentation;

wherein the audio entertainment system has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment.

46. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, further comprising a user interface control system comprised in the chassis and coupled to receive the user input from the user interface system, wherein the user interface control system is coupled to one or more of the non-volatile random-access storage system and the at least one audio output, wherein the user interface control system operates to control one or more of the non-volatile random-access storage system and the at least one audio output in response to user input received from the user interface system;

47. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 46, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to store a plurality of contents directories, wherein each of said contents directories identifies locations of a selected plurality of musical pieces according to common characteristics of said selected plurality of musical pieces;

wherein the user interface control system uses the contents directory to selectively access ones of said plurality of musical pieces.

48. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 46, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to store a contents directory which identifies locations of said plurality of musical pieces;

wherein the user interface control system uses the contents directory to selectively access ones of said plurality of musical pieces.

49. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the non-volatile random-access storage system is operable to store one or more play lists, wherein each of said play lists identifies locations of a plurality of said musical pieces.

50. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein in a first mode the audio entertainment system is operable to continuously store previously received audio

input, wherein the user interface system is operable to receive user input to select at least a portion of said previously received and stored audio input.

51. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the status information includes information regarding a current musical piece being played.

52. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the status information includes a current time.

53. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the display is operable to display information regarding a current musical piece being played.

54. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the display is operable to display substantially only status information of the system and information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system.

55. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the information regarding the audio information stored in the storage system comprises information regarding musical pieces currently stored in the storage system.

56. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the audio entertainment system is substantially only operable for storage and playback of musical pieces.

57. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein the display has an appearance which approximates standard audio equipment.

58. (New) The audio entertainment system of claim 45, wherein a first portion of the chassis is acoustically shielded.